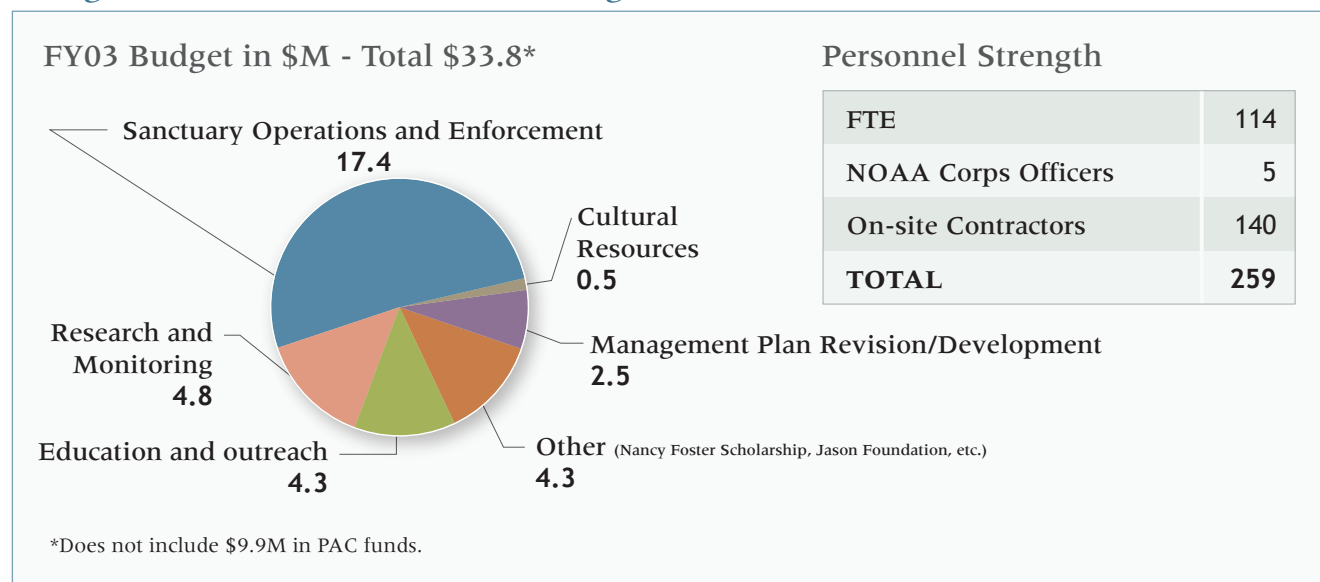


# Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Daniel J. Basta, Director

Michael Weiss, Deputy Director; CAPT Ted Lillestolen, Deputy Director

## Budget and Total Personnel Strength



## Organization

### National Programs Branch

Charly Alexander, Chief

### Conservation, Policy and Planning Branch

Helen Golde, Chief

### Stewardship Development Branch

Matt Stout, Chief

### Operations Branch

Maureen Warren, Chief

## Program Highlights

- **Seven sanctuaries currently are revising their management plans**, which provide community-based strategies for addressing resource protection issues.
- **NMS is in the process of designating a new sanctuary** in the ecologically rich and diverse Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
- **NMS is increasing its focus** on conservation of cultural resources—the turret of the *USS Monitor* was raised in summer 2002 and more shipwrecks within Thunder Bay were identified.
- **NMS is considering establishing marine reserves** in California's Channel Islands to complement the state's recent marine reserves designation in the area.
- **NMS is working to implement a system-wide monitoring plan** that would allow the sanctuaries to become key areas for monitoring the health of the oceans.
- **Sanctuary Advisory Councils have been established** at 11 sites, involving more than 200 community members in providing management advice to NOAA.
- **NMS is improving its interpretive techniques** for communicating its message to the public and using "telepresence," an innovative technology, to share the underwater experience with others.
- **The Dry Tortugas Reserve was designated** as a part of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, increasing the amount of area under sanctuary protection by 90 square nautical miles.
- **NMS is evolving a cross-site program integration process** in science, education, marine archaeology, and management plan development.